

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 14683 150102Z

64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 EUR-25 RSR-01 /143 W

----- 088299

R 141550Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP - 13 AUGUST 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO/SAIGON AND USSAG NKP

13 AUG 73. REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE:

BIEN HOA 0391

1. MILITARILY, MR 3 WAS MUCH QUIETER OVER WEEKEND THAN IN RECENT WEEKS. IN 72-HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 AUGUST 13, MR 3 G-2 REPORTED 42 CLASHES; 11 IN FIRST 24-HOUR PERIOD, 18 IN SECOND, AND 13 IN LAST; 16 GROUND ATTACKS, TEN ATTACKS BY FIRE (TWO OVER 20 ROUNDS) ONE COMBINED ATTACK BY FIRE AND GROUND (NO CASUALTIES), ONE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, TWO CIVILIAN ABDUCTIONS, 11 GRENADE/MINE DETONATIONS, AND ONE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRING; 12 IN BINH DUONG, EIGHT IN HAU NGHIA, SEVEN IN LONG AN, SIX IN GIA DINH, FOUR IN PHUOC LONG, THREE IN LONG KHANH, AND ONE EACH IN TAY NINH AND BINH TUY. GVN LOST FIVE KILLED, 19 WOUNDED, AND TWO CIVILIANS ABDUCTED; COMMUNIST LOST FIVE KILLED, ONE SUSPECT ARRESTED, EIGHT RALLIERS, AND SOME EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS.

2. CLASHES REPORTED DURING THE 72 HOUR PERIOD WERE LIGHT; OF THE FIVE RVNAF KIA ALL WERE DUE TO MINE/GRENADE DETONATIONS WHILE 10 OF THE 19 WOUNDED WERE ALSO A RESULT OF MINE/GRENADE DETONATIONS. FOUR OF THE FIVE VC/NVA WERE KILLED WHEN THEY ATTACKED A PATROL

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 14683 150102Z

OF 332 RF BN NE BEN LUC, LONG AN PROVINCE AUGUST 11. HEAVIEST

CLASH TOOK PLACE WHEN ESTIMATED COMMUNIST COMPANY ENGAGED 182ND AND 515TH RF COMPANIES NE HAM TAN, BINH TUY PROVINCE RESULTING IN ONE RF WOUNDED AUGUST 12. OTHER MINOR ACTIVITY INCLUDED A NIGHT ROAD BLOCK/AMBAUSH SW DINH QUAN, LONG KHANH PROVINCE AUGUST 9-10 AND TWO MEMBERS OF 45 RF PLT TEMPORARILY DETAINED BY VC/NVA E BINH PHUOC, LONG AN PROVINCE AUGUST 12.

3. AT REGULAR MONDAY MORNING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, ICCS V INDOBELS TOLD CONSUL THAT (UNLIKE IN OTHER REGIONS) THEY ARE NOT MAKING ANY INDEPENDENT OBSERVATIONS OF ALLEGED CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN CURRENT INTERIM PERIOD. GVN TPJMC V CHIFDEL COL. TA THANH LONG CONTINUES REGULARLY TO SEND REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION OF PRG VIOLATIONS. THESE REQUESTS USUALLY END WITH RHETORICAL FLOURISH: "VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IS ALWAYS EXPECTING THE THH PRG WILL STRICTLY IMPLEMENT THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS SIGNED BY THEM, AND THE POSITIVE COOPERATION AS WELL AS THE FAIR AND HONEST CONSIDERATION OF THE ICCS."

4. REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAND DEVELOPMENT AND HAMLET BUILDING, COL. CHUYEN, TOLD CONGEN LONG KHANH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER RECENTLY THAT LONG KHANH PROVINCE CHIEF COL. MACH VAN TRUONG IS ON HIS WAY OUT DUE TO CORRUPTION. WHEN A CONSUL ASKED ANOTHER PROVINCE CHIEF ABOUT THIS ALLEGATION, LATTER CONFIRMED THAT COL. TRUONG IS IN TROUBLE WITH MR 3 CG LTG MINH. HE ADDED THAT ONE CAN MAKE A LOT OF MONEY AS PROVINCE CHIEF, BUT ONE MUST KNOW HOW AND HOW MUCH TO MAKE. SOME MEN ARE FOOLISH AND TRY TO MAKE A FORTUNE, BUT ONE SHOULD BE SATISFIED TO TAKE CARE OF ONE-SELF AND GIVE A LITTLE HELP TO ONE'S FRIENDS.

5. CONGEN BINH DUONG RRO HAS LEARNED THAT GVN HAS ESTABLISHED PERCENTAGE TURNOUT GOAL FOR EACH PROVINCE FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. BINH DUONG'S GOAL IS 95 PERCENT.

6. PHUOC LONG PROVINCE RD CADRE CHIEF AND DEMOCRACY PARTY CHIEF LE TRUNG BO TOLD CONSUL AGUSUT 10 THAT HE EXPECTED 95 PERCENT OF PROVINCE'S 21,986 REGISTERED VOTERS TO VOTE FOR DEMOCRACY SLATE IN AUGUST 26 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. HE WAS "WORKING HARD" FOR THIS SLATE, AND ALSO "SUPPORTING" WHITE ELEPHANT SLATE. HE ASSURED CONSUL THAT RD CADRE WERE ONLY WORKING FOR DEMOCRACY SLATE ON THEIR OFF DUTY HOURS. WHEN CONSUL ASKED IF MONTAGNARD VOTERS, ALMOST HALF THE TOTAL, UNDERSTOOD UPPER HOUSE ELECTION OR EVEN KNEW WHERE SAIGON WAS, BO ASSURED HIM IT HAD ALL BEEN EXPLAINED TO THEM.

7. DURING CONSUL'S VISIT TO PHUOC LONG, CEXO FRENCH RUBBER
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 14683 150102Z

PLANTATION MANAGER PEACHAUD ARRIVED IN PRIVATE AIRCRAFT AND PAID CALL ON PROVINCE CHIEF LUU YEM AND EXPLAINED HE WISHED TO VISIT HIS PLANTATIONS IN PHUOC LONG. YEM LATER TOLD CONSUL THESE PLANTATIONS ARE OPERATING WITHOUT COMMUNIST INTERFERENCE. HE DID NOT THINK FRENCH COMPANY WAS PAYING OFF LOCAL VC, BUT PROBABLY THEY WERE MAKING ONE LARGE YEARLY PAYMENT, PERHAPS IN SAIGON. A PHUOC LONG RESIDENT TOLD CONSUL THAT CEXO HAS ALSO GIVEN YEM A PRIVATE CAR HE USES IN CHO LON

7. MR 3 CIVILIAN MOTIVATION CHIEF TOLD CONSUL MORNING AUGUST 13 THAT GVN WOULD WIN 90 PERCENT OF VOTE IN HYPOTHETICAL TWO-WAY RACE WITH COMMUNISTS IN MR 3 IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT THIS WOULD DEPEND MAINLY ON MILITARY SITUATION. HE TACITLY ADMITTED THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-GVN SENTIMENT IN MR 3, BUT CLAIMED HE SAW NO INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION WHICH COULD MOLD SUCH SENTIMENT INTO A CREDIBLE "THIRD FORCE". HE SAID NEW COMMISSIONER-GENERAL HOANG DUC NHA HAS MOTIVATED THE CIVILIAN MOTIVATION CADRES TO PERFORM BETTER THAN THEY HAD WHEN THEY WERE ONLY VIS CADRES. HE WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION; THE GVN'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROPAGANDA MACHINERY KNEW HOW TO RUN ELECTIONS, AND THE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM. THE GVN'S CURRENT PRINCIPAL PROPAGANDA LIABILITIES ARE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CORRUPTION. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION EFFECTS PEOPLE THE MOST, BUT THE GVN CAN EXPLAIN THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE HAD POSTWAR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND CALL ON THE PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE TO ATTAIN ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY THE CORRUPTION PROBLEM AFFECT PEOPLE LESS THAN THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM, BUT IS HARDER TO RATIONALIZE SO IT POSSES A GREATER LIABILITY.

WALKINSHAW

UNQUOTE MATRIN

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